

# Notes on Probability and Statistics

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# 1 Introduction to Probability

## 1.1 Uncertainty

There is always uncertainty in a description of a real world system. This could arise from imprecise measurements, incomplete models, and limited measurements. Probability and statistics allow us to describe uncertainty in a precise manner.

## 1.2 Set Notation

### Definition: Sample Space

The set of all possible outcomes of a statistical experiment is called the sample space and is represented by the symbol  $S$ .

Example:  $S = \{(x, y) | x^2 + y^2 \leq 4\}$

An **event** is a subset of a sample space.

Let there be two events  $A$  and  $B$  which are sets with elements/members.

- $A = B$  if they have the same elements
- $A \subset B$  if  $A$  is a subset of  $B$ , meaning each element in  $A$  is also in  $B$
- $A \subseteq B$  if  $A$  is possible equal to  $B$
- $a \in A$  means  $a$  is a member of set  $A$
- $a \notin A$  means  $a$  is not a member of set  $A$
- The complement of event  $A$  with respect to  $S$  is denoted  $A'$
- The intersection of two events is all the elements common to both events, denoted  $A \cap B$
- The union of two events is all members in  $A$  and  $B$ , denoted  $A \cup B$
- If  $A \cap B = \emptyset$ , they are mutually exclusive or disjoint
- $A \setminus B$  denotes the set of elements in  $A$  but not in  $B$

There are some fundamental properties that apply for both union and intersection. Only union will be shown but swapping the operators will also be a valid expression.  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algebra\\_of\\_sets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Algebra_of_sets)

- Commutative:  $A \cup B = B \cup A$
- Associative:  $(A \cup B) \cup C = A \cup (B \cup C)$
- Distributive:  $A \cup (B \cap C) = (A \cup B) \cap (A \cup C)$
- Identity:  $A \cup \emptyset = A$  and  $A \cap S = A$
- Complement:  $A \cup A' = S$  and  $A \cap A' = \emptyset$

## 1.3 Counting

Combinatorics is too difficult. See Appendix A1 for examples and stuff.

**Definition: Combination**

$${}_nC_r = \binom{n}{r} = \frac{n!}{r!(n-r)!}$$

**Definition: Permutation**

$${}_nP_r = \frac{n!}{(n-r)!}$$

## 1.4 Probability

Probability of A:

$$P(A) \in [0, 1]$$

Probability of Sample Space:

$$P(S) = 1$$

Probability of Mutually Exclusive Events:

$$P(A) \cup P(B) = P(A) + P(B)$$

Probability of Independent Events:

$$P(A, B) = P(A)P(B)$$

Probability of Two Events:

$$P(AB) = P(A) + P(B) - P(A \cap B)$$

Probability of Mutually Exclusive Events (probability of intersection is 0):

$$P(A) \cup P(B) = P(A) + P(B)$$

Probability of N Events (Intuitive with a Venn Diagram): <sup>1</sup>

$$P(A) + P(B) + P(C) - P(A \cap B) - P(A \cap C) - P(B \cap C) + P(A \cap B \cap C)$$

Probability of Event and Complement

$$P(A) + P(A') = 1$$

<sup>1</sup> Using distributivity of set operators,

$$\begin{aligned} P(ABC) &= P(A) + P(B \cup C)P(A \cap (B \cup C)) \\ &= P(A) + [P(B) + P(C) - P(B \cap C)] \\ &\quad - P(A \cap (B \cup C)) \\ &= P(A) + P(B) + P(C) - P(B \cap C) \\ &\quad - P((A \cap B) \cup (A \cap C)) \\ &= P(A) + P(B) + P(C) - P(A \cap B) \\ &\quad - P(A \cap C) \\ &\quad - P(B \cap C) + P(A \cap B \cap C) \end{aligned}$$

**Example 1**

Cards Chance of getting 2 aces and 3 jacks in a regular card deck. Notes:

- 52 cards in a regular card deck
- 13 of each suite and colour
- 4 of each number/face
- 12 are face cards
- 40 are number cards

$$P(2 \text{ aces}) = \binom{4}{2} = 6$$

$$P(3 \text{ jacks}) = \binom{4}{3} = 4$$

$$N_{event} = (6)(4) = 24$$

$$N_{possible} = \binom{52}{5}$$

$$P(event) = \frac{24}{\binom{52}{5}}$$

### Example 2

Dartboard Chance of landing within an area  $A$ . Let the entire dartboard be  $S$  and thus area  $A \subset S$ .

$$P(A) = \frac{\int_A dx}{\int_S dx}$$

## 1.5 Conditional Probability

### Definition: Conditional Probability

The probability of event  $B$  given event  $A$  is given by,

$$P(B|A) = \frac{P(A \cap B)}{P(A)}$$

If  $P(A) > 0$

### Product Rule:

$$P(A \cap B) = P(A)P(B|A)$$

**Independence** of two events is true iff  $P(A|B) = P(A)$  or  $P(B|A) = P(B)$ . Thus, probability of independent events is given by,

$$P(A, B) = P(A)P(B)$$

### Partition:

$B_1, \dots, B_k$  is a partition of  $S$  if  $B_i \cap B_j = \emptyset$  and  $B_1 \cup B_2 \cup \dots \cup B_k = S$

### Theorem: Bayes' Rule

Suppose  $P(A) > 0$ ,  $P(B) > 0$  and  $C_1, \dots, C_k$  is a partition. Then,

$$P(B|A)P(A) = P(A|B)P(B)$$

$$\frac{P(B|A)}{P(B)} = \frac{P(A|B)}{P(A)}$$

$$P(B|A) = \frac{P(B)P(A|B)}{\sum_{i=1}^k P(C_i)P(A|C_i)}$$

### Definition: Total Probability

Let  $A$  be an event and  $B_1, \dots, B_k$  is a partition. Then,

$$P(A) = \sum_{i=1}^k P(A \cap B_i) = \sum_{i=1}^k P(A|B_i)P(B_i)$$

### Example 3

Machines  $B_1, B_2, B_3$  make 30%, 45%, 25% of the products at defective rates of 2%, 3%, 2% respectively. Using the rule of total probability,

$$\begin{aligned} P(\text{Defective}) &= P(B_1)P(\text{Defective}|B_1) + P(B_2)P(\text{Defective}|B_2) \\ &\quad + P(B_3)P(\text{Defective}|B_3) \\ &= (0.3)(0.02) + (0.45)(0.03) + (0.25)(0.02) \\ &= 0.0245 \end{aligned}$$

We can reverse the direction of probability calculations using Bayes' rule. If a product is defective, then the probability it came from machine 3 is

$$\begin{aligned} P(B_3|D) &= \frac{P(B_3)P(D|B_3)}{P(D)} \\ &= \frac{(0.25)(0.02)}{0.0245} \\ &= \frac{10}{49} \end{aligned}$$

## 2 Random Variables

### Definition: Random Variable (RV)

A random variable is a function that maps a non-negative real number with each element in the sample space.

It is denoted with a capital letter, e.g.  $X$  or  $Y$ .

Example: Let there be a subspace  $E = AAB, ABA, BAB$ .  $X$  is the random variable for outcome  $A$  and takes on the value  $x = 2$  in the first two outcomes and  $x = 1$  in the last outcome.

### 2.1 Discrete Probability Distributions

#### Probability Mass Function (PMF)

$f(x)$  is a PMF of the discrete RV  $X$  if

- $f(x) \geq 0$  for each outcome  $X = x$
- $\sum_x f(x) = 1$
- $f(x) = P(X = x)$

#### Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF)

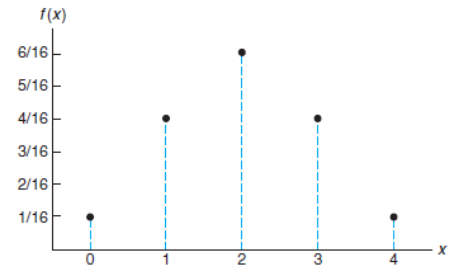


Figure 1: PMF as discrete points, can also be visualized as a histogram. Source: textbook

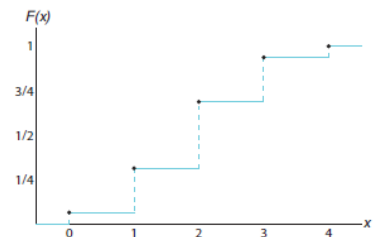


Figure 2: CDF from discrete points. Source: textbook

Let RV  $X$  have PMF  $f(x)$ . The CDF of  $X$  is,

$$F(x) = \sum_{t \leq x} f(t)$$

## 2.2 Continuous Probability Distributions

Let  $X$  be a continuous RV.  $P(x = 5) = 0$  because the value could be any real number and so  $x = 5$  is one of infinite possibilities.<sup>2</sup>

### Probability Density Function (PDF)

$f(x)$  is a PDF of the continuous RV  $X$  if

- $f(x) \geq 0$  for each outcome  $X = x$
- $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x) dx = 1$
- $\int_a^b f(x) dx = P(a < X < b)$

### Cumulative Distribution Function (CDF)

Let RV  $X$  have PDF  $f(x)$ . The CDF of  $X$  is,

$$F(x) = \int_{-\infty}^x f(t) dt$$

Some properties:

$$\begin{aligned} F(x) &= P(X \leq x) \\ P(a < X < b) &= P(b) - P(a) \\ F(\infty) &= P(X \leq \infty) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(t) dt = 1 \end{aligned}$$

<sup>2</sup> The only case where this isn't true is if there is a Dirac Delta function in the PDF

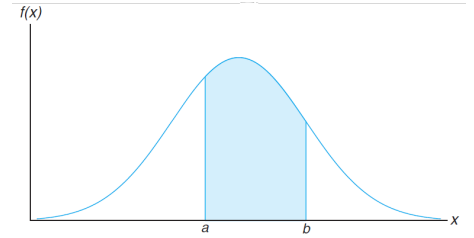


Figure 3: PDF function. Source: textbook

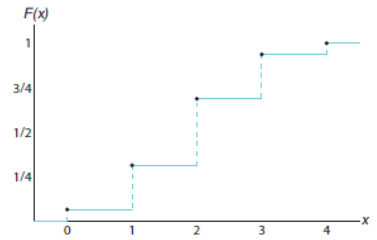


Figure 4: CDF from continuous distribution. Source: textbook

## 2.3 Joint Distributions

### Definition: Joint Probability Distribution

If we have two RVs  $X$  and  $Y$  and we are interested in the simultaneous occurrence of their outcomes  $(x, y)$ , we can describe the probability distribution through a joint probability distribution function  $f(x, y)$ .

### Discrete: Joint PMF

- $f(x, y) \geq 0 \forall (x, y)$
- $\sum_x \sum_y f(x, y) = 1$
- $P(X = x, Y = y) = f(x, y)$
- For any region  $A \subseteq S$ ,  $P[(X, Y) \in A] = \sum \sum_A f(x, y)$

### Continuous: Joint PDF

- $f(x, y) \geq 0 \forall (x, y)$
- $\int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x, y) dx dy = 1$
- $P[(X, Y) \in A] = \iint_A f(x, y) dx dy$ , for any  $A \subseteq S$

## 2.4 Marginal Distributions

### Definition: Marginal Distribution

If we have the joint probability distribution  $f(x, y)$  of RVs  $X, Y$  and we are interested in the probability distribution of a single RV, we can describe the probability distribution of  $X$  and  $Y$  through marginal distribution functions  $g(x), h(y)$ .

#### <sup>3</sup> Discrete

$$g(x) = \sum_y f(x, y)$$

$$h(y) = \sum_x f(x, y)$$

<sup>3</sup> "Marginal" refers to the marginal totals: the sum of respective columns/rows when the discrete data is presented in a table. We can also think of this as a weighted average of  $f(x, y)$  over all possibilities of  $y$  or  $x$ .

#### Continuous

$$g(x) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x, y) dy$$

$$h(y) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(x, y) dx$$

## 2.5 Conditional Distributions

### Definition: Conditional Distribution

The conditional distribution of  $x$  given  $y$  is,

$$f(x|y) = \frac{f(x, y)}{g(y)}$$

#### Discrete

$$P(a \leq X \leq b | Y = y) = \sum_{a < x < b} f(x|y)$$

#### Continuous

$$P(a \leq X \leq b | Y = y) = \int_a^b f(x|y) dx$$

## 2.6 Statistical Independence

Given RVs  $X$  and  $Y$  with a joint distribution  $f(x, y)$  and marginal distribution  $g(x), h(y)$ :

$X, Y$  are statistically independent iff  $f(x, y) = g(x)h(y), \forall (x, y) \in \text{Range}$ .



## 2.7 Expectation

### Definition: Expected Value

Given RV  $X$  with distribution  $f(x)$ , the expected value or mean is given by,

$$\mu = E[X] = \sum_x x f(x)$$

$$\mu = E[X] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x f(x) dx$$

<sup>4</sup> If we have some function  $q(X)$  that acts upon the RV  $X$ , we get another RV with expected value given by,

$$\mu_{q(x)} = E[q(X)] = \sum_x q(x) f(x)$$

$$\mu_{q(x)} = E[q(X)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} q(x) f(x) dx$$

If we have RVs  $X, Y$  with joint probability distribution  $f(x, y)$  and some function  $q(X, Y)$ , the expected value of RV  $q(X, Y)$  is given by,

$$\mu_{q(X,Y)} = E[q(X, Y)] = \sum_x \sum_y q(x, y) f(x, y)$$

$$\mu_{q(X,Y)} = E[q(X, Y)] = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} q(x, y) f(x, y) dx dy$$

<sup>4</sup> Mean of a random variables refers to the weighted average, or the arithmetic average of every single option in a discrete case. We are taking into account the relative frequencies of each outcome for the random variable.

## 2.8 Variance

### Definition: Variance

Let  $X$  be an RV with distribution  $f(x)$  and mean  $\mu = E[X]$ . The variance is defined as:

$$\sigma^2 = var(X) = E[(X - \mu)^2] = \begin{cases} \text{Discrete} & \sum_x (x - \mu)^2 f(x) \\ \text{Continuous} & \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \mu)^2 f(x) dx \end{cases}$$

We can also express variance of a RV  $X$  by

$$\sigma^2 = E(X^2) - \mu^2$$

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### Definition: Standard Deviation

Standard deviation  $\sigma = \sqrt{\sigma^2}$

### Definition: Covariance

Let  $X, Y$  be RVs with joint distribution  $f(x, y)$  and means  $\mu_x$  and  $\mu_y$ . The

<sup>5</sup> We are essentially summing the distance an outcome is from the mean, and multiplying it by the probability that outcome occurs

covariance of  $X$  and  $Y$  is defined as

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma_{XY} &= \text{cov}(X, Y) = E[(X - \mu_x)(Y - \mu_y)] \\ &= \begin{cases} \text{Discrete} & \sum_x \sum_y (x - \mu_x)(y - \mu_y) f(x, y) \\ \text{Continuous} & \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (x - \mu_x)(y - \mu_y) f(x, y) dx dy \end{cases}\end{aligned}$$

We can also express covariance by

$$\sigma_{XY} = E[XY] - \mu_x \mu_y$$

If  $X$  is positive when  $Y$  is positive,  $\sigma_{xy} > 0$ . If  $X$  and  $Y$  are inversely related, then  $\sigma_{xy} < 0$ .

**Definition: Correlation Coefficient**

The correlation coefficient  $\rho_{XY}$  is a normalized covariance given by,

$$\rho_{XY} = \frac{\sigma_{XY}}{\sigma_x \sigma_y} \in [-1, 1]$$

## 2.9 Linear Combinations of Random Variables

The expected value is a linear function. Thus, given RVs  $X, Y$  and joint distribution  $f(x, y)$ ,

$$E[aX + Y] = aE[X] + E[Y]$$

Similarly,

$$\begin{aligned}E[aX + b] &= aE[X] + b \\ E[q(X, Y) \pm p(X, Y)] &= E[q(X, Y)] \pm E[p(X, Y)]\end{aligned}$$

If  $X$  and  $Y$  are independent RVs, then <sup>6</sup>

$$E[XY] = E[X]E[Y]$$

Similarly, we can use linearity with variance to obtain

$$\text{var}(aX + bY + c) = a^2 \text{var}(X) + 2ab \text{cov}(X, Y) + b^2 \text{var}(Y)$$

<sup>6</sup> Recall,  $\sigma_{XY} = E[XY] - E[X]E[Y]$ . In the independent case, the covariance becomes 0 and this means the variables are uncorrelated. Note that independent variables are uncorrelated but variables could be uncorrelated and dependent.

## 3 Common Distribution

**Definition: Uniform Distribution**

Every element in  $S$  has the same probability.

### 3.1 Binomial Distribution

**Definition: Bernoulli Process and Trial**

For a sample space of two outcomes (success or failure), a process that consists of  $n$  repeated independent trials and has constant probabilities for success and failure is known as a Bernoulli process. Each trial in a Bernoulli

process is known as a Bernoulli trial.

Denote  $X$  as the number of successes that occur in  $n$  Bernoulli trials. This is known as a binomial RV and its probability distribution is called the binomial distribution. Its values will be denoted using  $b(x; n, p)$ , where  $x$  is the value the RV takes and  $p$  is the probability of success for each trial.

The probability of  $x$  1's and  $n - x$  0's in some particular order is  $p^x q^{n-x}$ , where  $q = 1 - p$ . Thus, the number of ways total to have  $x$  1's and  $1 - x$  0's is the above expression multiplied by the number of partitions of  $n$  outcomes, or  $\binom{n}{x}$ . Therefore,

$$b(x; n, p) = \binom{n}{x} p^x q^{n-x}$$

Mean of binomial distribution:

$$E[X] = \sum_{x=0}^n x \binom{n}{x} p^x q^{n-x} = np$$

Variance of binomial distribution:

Each trial is independent, so

$$\begin{aligned} \sigma_X^2 &= \sum_{k=1}^n \sigma_{Y_k}^2 \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n E[Y_k^2] - \mu_{Y_k}^2 \\ &= \sum_{k=1}^n p - p^2 = np(1 - p) \end{aligned}$$

### 3.2 Multinomial Distribution

Multinomial is pretty much the same as binomial except each trial can have more than two outcomes. The notation is then,  $f(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_k; p_1, p_2, \dots, p_k; n)$ .

Similar to how the binomial distribution expression was derived, we use partitions to get:

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_k; p_1, \dots, p_k, n) = \binom{n}{x_1, \dots, x_k} p_1^{x_1} p_2^{x_2} \dots p_k^{x_k}$$

### 3.3 Chi-Squared Distribution

The PDF of the  $\chi^2$  distribution is given by,

$$f(x; v) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{2^{\frac{v}{2}} \Gamma(\frac{v}{2})} x^{\frac{v}{2}-1} e^{-\frac{x}{2}} & x > 0 \\ 0 & x \leq 0 \end{cases}$$

Where,  $v$  is the degrees of freedom. This is a special case of the gamma distribution with  $\beta = 2, \alpha = \frac{v}{2}$ .

### 3.4 Exponential Distribution

The PDF of the exponential distribution is given by,

$$f(x; \beta) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{\beta} e^{-\frac{x}{\beta}}, & x \geq 0 \\ 0, & x < 0 \end{cases}$$

This is a special case of the gamma distribution with  $\beta = \beta, \alpha = 1$ . Since this is still a gamma distribution, we know the mean is  $\beta$  and variance is  $\beta^2$ .

### 3.4.1 Relationship to the Poisson Distribution

The exponential distribution can describe the time taken between events as a complement to the Poisson PMF <sup>7</sup>

The probability of no arrivals in an interval of length  $t$  is

$$p(0; rt) = e^{-rt}$$

Let  $Y$  be the RV describing the time to first arrival.

Then,

$$P(Y > t) = e^{-rt}$$

<sup>8</sup>

Thus, the CDF of  $Y$  is

$$P(Y \leq t) = 1 - e^{-rt} = F(t)$$

And it follows that the PDF of  $Y$  is

$$\begin{aligned} f(t) &= \frac{d}{dt} F(t) = re^{-rt} \\ \text{of arrivals: } p(x; rt) &= \frac{e^{-rt}(rt)^x}{x!} \\ \text{time to 1st arrival: } f(t) &= re^{-rt} \end{aligned}$$

Note that this is the exponential distribution with  $r = \frac{1}{\beta}$

### 3.4.2 Memoryless Property

Let  $X$  be an exponential distribution with  $\beta > 0$ .

$$\begin{aligned} P(X > s + t | X > s) &= \frac{P(X > s + t \cap X > s)}{P(X > s)} \\ &= \frac{P(X > s + t)}{P(X > s)} \\ &= \frac{\int_{s+t}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\beta} e^{-\frac{x}{\beta}} dx}{\int_s^{\infty} \frac{1}{\beta} e^{-\frac{x}{\beta}} dx} \\ &= \frac{e^{-\frac{(s+t)}{\beta}}}{e^{-\frac{s}{\beta}}} \\ &= e^{-\frac{t}{\beta}} \\ &= P(X > t) \end{aligned}$$

Conclusion is that the prior amount of time spent waiting has no affect on the probability of the wait.

## 4 Functions of Random Variables

### 4.1 Functions of Discrete Random Variables

Let  $X$  be an RV with PMF  $f(x)$  and  $Y = u(X)$ , where  $u$  is bijective. <sup>9</sup> Thus, we can

<sup>7</sup> Recall: Poisson PMF

$$p(x; \lambda) = \frac{e^{-\lambda} \lambda^x}{x!}, x \in \mathbb{N}$$

$\lambda = rt$ ,  $r$  is the rate of arrivals and  $t$  is the length of the interval. Although the events themselves are discrete, the time between is continuous and can be modelled by the exponential distribution.

<sup>8</sup> The point is that, the probability of arrivals during an interval is independent of the probability of the first arrival occurring after the interval.

<sup>9</sup> Bijective means that the function is one-to-one or invertible.

write  $X = u^{-1}(Y)$ .

The PMF of  $Y$  is then given by

$$\begin{aligned} g(y) &= P(Y = y) \\ &= P(u^{-1}(Y) = u^{-1}(y)) \\ &= P(X = u^{-1}(y)) \\ &= f(u^{-1}(y)) \end{aligned}$$

If  $X$  has PMF  $f(x)$  and  $Y = u(x)$ , then  $g(y) = f(u^{-1}(x))$ .

#### Example 4

$X$  has PMF,

$$f(X) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{n} & 1 \leq x \leq n \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Then,

$$Y = X^2, u(X) = X^2$$

Although  $u(x)$  is not invertible in general, it is invertible on the domain of  $x \in [1, n]$ , the inverse being  $u^{-1}(Y) = \sqrt{Y}$ . Then,

$$g(y) = \begin{cases} \frac{1}{n} & 1 \leq \sqrt{y} \leq n \\ 0 & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Where,  $y = 1, 4, 9, \dots, n^2$  because  $X$  is a discrete RV.

## 4.2 Functions of Continuous Random Variables

Let  $X$  be an RV with PDF  $f(x)$  and  $Y = u(x)$ , where  $u$  is bijective. Thus, we can write  $X = u^{-1}(Y)$ .

The PDF of  $Y$ ,  $g(y)$  cannot be as easily computed as the discrete case. We start with the CDF  $G(y)$ ,<sup>10</sup>

$$\begin{aligned} G(y) &= P(Y \leq y) \\ &= P(u^{-1}(Y) \leq u^{-1}(y)) \\ &= P(X \leq u^{-1}(y)) \\ &= P(X \leq u^{-1}(y)) \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{u^{-1}(y)} f(x) dx \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} g(y) &= \frac{d}{dy} G(y) \\ &= f(u^{-1}(y)) \left| \frac{d}{dy} u^{-1}(y) \right| \end{aligned}$$

<sup>10</sup> We assume  $u$  is strictly increasing, which means that the inequality between  $Y$  and  $y$  also holds between  $u^{-1}(Y)$  and  $u^{-1}(y)$ . Recall that a CDF can either be strictly increasing or decreasing. If we do the calculation with a strictly decreasing, all that changes is the sign of the derivative in the end step so we place an absolute value around it.

## 4.3 Moment Generating Functions

**Definition: Moment Generating Functions (MGF)**

The  $r^{\text{th}}$  moment of the RV  $X$  is,

$$\begin{aligned} u'_r &= E[X^r] \\ &= \begin{cases} \sum_x x^r f(x) & \text{if discrete} \\ \int_0^\infty x^r f(x) dx & \text{if continuous} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

Where,  $u'_r$  is the mean  $u$  and variance is related by  $\sigma^2 = E[X^2] = \mu^2 = \mu'_r - \mu^2$ .

### Definition: Moment Generating Function of RVs

The MGF of  $X$  is given by

$$M_x(t) = E[e^{tx}] = \begin{cases} \sum_x e^{tx} f(x) & \text{if discrete} \\ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{tx} f(x) dx & \text{if continuous} \end{cases}$$

Observe that the moment generating function can produce all of the moments of  $X$ .  
11

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{d^r}{dt^r} M_x(t) \Big|_{t=0} &= \frac{d^r}{dt^r} \sum_x e^{tx} f(x) \Big|_{t=0} \\ &= \sum_x f(x) \frac{d^r}{dt^r} e^{tx} \Big|_{t=0} \\ &= \sum_x f(x) x^r e^{tx} \Big|_{t=0} \\ &= \sum_x f(x) x^r \\ &= \mu'_r \end{aligned}$$

<sup>11</sup> Make sure that, when evaluating a function, to substitute after differentiating everything.

### Example 5

$X$  is a normal distribution with  $n(x; \mu, \sigma)$ .

$$\begin{aligned} M_x(t) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{tx} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2}{2\sigma^2}} dx \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{(x-\mu)^2 - 2tx\sigma^2}{2\sigma^2}} dx \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{x^2 - 2(\mu + t\sigma^2)x + \mu^2}{2\sigma^2}} dx \end{aligned}$$

Completing the square and doing lots of simplification gives us,

$$= e^{\mu t + \frac{t^2 \sigma^2}{2}} \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi}\sigma} e^{-\frac{(x - (\mu + t\sigma^2))^2}{2\sigma^2}} dx$$

Notice the integrand is just a normal distribution integrated from  $-\infty$  to  $\infty$ , which equals 1. Thus,

$$= e^{\mu t + \frac{t^2 \sigma^2}{2}}$$

## 4.4 Linear Combinations of Random Variables

Let  $Y = aX$ ,  $a \in \mathbb{R}$ . If discrete, then  $X = \frac{1}{a}y$ . If continuous, then  $X = \frac{1}{|a|}f(\frac{1}{a}y)$ . Suppose  $X$  has MGF  $M_x(t)$ . Then the MGF of  $Y$  is given by,

$$\begin{aligned} M_Y(t) &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{ty} g(y) dy \\ &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{ty} \frac{1}{|a|} f\left(\frac{y}{a}\right) dy \end{aligned}$$

Let  $z = y/a$ ,  $dy = a dz$ .

$$\begin{aligned} &= \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} e^{az} \frac{1}{|a|} f(z) |a| dz \\ &= M_x(at) \end{aligned}$$

Therefore, if  $X$  has MGF  $M_x(t)$ , then  $Y = aX$  has  $M_Y(t) = M_{ax}(t) = M_x(at)$ . Let  $X$  have a PMF  $f(x)$ ,  $Y$  has a PMF  $g(y)$ . Let  $Z = X + Y$ . The PMF of  $Z$  is given by,

$$\begin{aligned} h(z) &= P(Z = z) \\ &= P(X + Y = z) \\ &= \sum_{w=-\infty}^{\infty} P(X = w) P(Y = z - w) \\ &= \sum_w f(w) g(z - w). \end{aligned}$$

<sup>12</sup> In the continuous case, we have

<sup>12</sup> note that this is a convolution

$$h(z) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} f(w) g(z - w) dw$$

### Example 6

We have 2 dice, what are the chances of rolling an 8?

Let the PMF for die 1 be  $f(x) = \frac{1}{6}$  and that for die 2 be  $g(x) = \frac{1}{6}$ ,  $1 \leq x \leq 6$ .

Let  $Z = X + Y$ , with PMF  $h(z) = \sum_w f(w) g(z - w)$ .

Then  $h(8) = f(2)g(6) + f(3)g(5) + f(4)g(4) + f(5)g(3) + f(6)g(2) = 5(\frac{1}{6})^2 = \frac{5}{36}$ .

$X$  has MGF  $M_x(t)$ ,  $Y$  has MGF  $M_y(t)$ . Let  $Z = X + Y$ . The MGF of  $Z$  is given by

$$\begin{aligned} M_z(t) &= \sum_z e^{tz} \sum_w f(w) g(z - w) \\ &= \sum_w f(w) \sum_z e^{tz} g(z - w) \end{aligned}$$

Let  $k = z - w$

$$\begin{aligned} &= \sum_w f(w) \sum_k e^{t(k+w)} g(k) \\ &= \sum_w f(w) e^{tw} \sum_k e^{tk} g(k) \\ &= M_x(t) M_y(t) \end{aligned}$$

## 5 Appendix A

### 5.1 Approaches to Combinatorics Problems

#### Arrangements

The number of arrangements of  $k$  for a set of  $n$  elements is given by  $n^k$ .

Examples:

- Thirteen pairs of football teams will play matches today. The possible predictions for every match are victory for the host team, loss for the host team, and a draw. How many different predictions are there?  
There are 3 different options for 13 events so the total number of possible predictions is  $3^{13}$

#### Arrangements Without Replacement/Repetition

The number of arrangements of  $k$  without replacement for a set of  $n$  elements is given by  $n(n-1)\dots(n-k+1)$ .

Examples:

- How many ways can we elect a president, vice president, and treasurer if there are 25 member of a club? Here,  $n = 25$  and  $k = 3$  so no. of ways =  $(25)(24)(23)$

#### Permutations

idk

Identical Items: If we have repetitions in a set, we divide by the number of repeated elements factorial (removing the permutations of repeated elements).

Examples:

- Number of unique strings that can be permuted from "ATLANTIC": we have 8 letters, but 'A' and 'T' are repeated twice. Thus, permutations =  $\frac{8!}{2!2!}$ .
- Same problem as above, but the 'A's and 'T's must not be adjacent to each other. We consider the complement: how many permutations are there such that the 'A's are adjacent and 'T's are adjacent. Since they are identical, we can group them into a single term, 'AA' and 'TT'. Then we have 6 letters, so the complement has  $6!$  ways. The number of ways for no-adjacent repeats is then  $8! - 6!$ .
- 10 coin flips to get 4 heads: reword to get "number of unique arrangements of "HHHHTTTTTT" (4 heads, 6 tails). This is the same problem as earlier, ways =  $\frac{10!}{4!6!}$
- Given the set of 16 letters  $\{a, b, c, \dots, p\}$ , how many permutations are there where 'a' and 'g' are separated by exactly 4 letters: there are 11 possible positions for "a . . . g" and we can also have "g . . . a", the other 14 letters can be arranged any way we like. Thus, of ways =  $(11)(2)(14!)$

#### Combinations

idk either

Examples:

- 12 boys and 8 girls in a class and we need to choose three of each. How many ways can we do this?  
choose boys =  $\binom{12}{3}$ , choose girls =  $\binom{8}{3}$ , of ways =  $\binom{12}{3}\binom{8}{3}$



- Number of ways to get two pairs in a 6-card hand from a standard deck. First we choose a card out of 13 options, then choose 2 from the 4 suits:  $\binom{13}{1}\binom{4}{2}$ . Then we repeat for the remaining 12 options, choosing 2 from the 4 suits  $\binom{12}{1}\binom{4}{2}$ . Now we have 2 pairs and choose the remaining 2 cards from the 11 and choose their colours  $\binom{11}{2}\binom{4}{1}\binom{4}{1}$ . The number of ways then is the product of all of the earlier terms.
- Number of ways to get a straight (increasing sequence) in a 5-card hand from a standard deck. We don't care what order we get the cards in, so there's only 9 possible straights starting with A-5 and ending with 9-K. We have to choose a colour from each so the number of ways is  $9\binom{4}{1}^5$
- Number of ways to get a flush (all same suit, but not increasing sequence). We first choose a suit  $\binom{4}{1}$ . Then we choose 5 cards from it  $\binom{13}{5}$ , but subtract the number of ways where we get a straight 9. Thus, the number of ways to get a flush is  $\binom{4}{1}(\binom{13}{5} - 9)$ .

To be continued...

## 5.2 Notes on Probability Problems

For a system with 4 components  $A - D$ , but redundant / parallel subsystems  $B$  and  $C$ , the probability of success can be found by:

$$P = P(A)[1 - (1 - P(B))(1 - P(C))]P(D)$$

The probability of the redundant section succeeding is  $1 - (\text{probability of both failing})$ .

This idea can be similarly extended to another problem: if we are interested in the probability of something occurring more than  $n$  times, it is typically easier to find  $1 - (\text{probability of it happening} \leq n \text{ times})$  because we don't involve infinity.

If

$$f(x) = e^{-6} \frac{6^x}{x!}, x = 0, 1, 2, \dots$$

$$P(X < 8) = 1 - \sum_{x=0}^8 e^{-6} \frac{6^x}{x!}$$

For a joint distribution,  $P(X < Y)$  can be found setting the upper bound of the  $x$  integral to  $y$ :

$$P(X, Y) = \int_a^b \int_c^y f(x, y) dx dy$$

## 6 Appendix B

### 6.1 Applications in Renewable Energy

- Popular forms of renewable energy, especially wind and solar, suffer from intermittency
- This can be costly, since an alternative source of energy must be used to generate energy in times of intermittent outage

Let a given renewable energy source produce  $p$  units of energy, with distribution  $f(p)$ . Let the base amount paid be  $\lambda p$  (proportional to produced energy) and the forecast be denoted  $\hat{p}$ . Then, let the payment be instead:<sup>13</sup>

$$\lambda p - \mu^- (\hat{p} - p)^+ - \mu^+ (p - \hat{p})^+$$

Where,  $\mu^+, \mu^-$  are constants. So the payment is basically the original payment minus a fee due to underproduction and a fee due to overproduction.<sup>14</sup> We want a forecast  $\hat{p}$  that maximizes the payment. Since we cannot predict the future, we want to maximize our expected profit:

$$\begin{aligned} J &= E[\lambda p - \mu^- (\hat{p} - p)^+ - \mu^+ (p - \hat{p})^+] \\ &= \lambda \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p f(p) dp - \mu^- \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\hat{p} - p)^+ f(p) dp - \mu^+ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (p - \hat{p})^+ f(p) dp \end{aligned}$$

<sup>15</sup> We want to maximize this expression, so finding the critical points by differentiating and a bunch of math using Leibniz's integral rule:

$$\begin{aligned} \frac{dJ(\hat{p})}{d\hat{p}} &= 0 \\ \frac{d}{d\hat{p}} \lambda \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} p f(p) dp &= 0 \\ \frac{d}{d\hat{p}} \mu^- \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (\hat{p} - p)^+ f(p) dp &= \int_{-\infty}^{\hat{p}} f(p) dp = F(\hat{p}) \\ \frac{d}{d\hat{p}} \mu^+ \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} (p - \hat{p})^+ f(p) dp &= \int_{\hat{p}}^{\infty} -f(p) dp = -(1 - F(\hat{p})) \\ \frac{dJ(\hat{p})}{d\hat{p}} &= -\mu^- F(\hat{p}) + \mu^+ (1 - F(\hat{p})) = 0 \\ \therefore F(\hat{p}) &= \frac{\mu^+}{\mu^+ + \mu^-} \end{aligned}$$

We know that a PDF of wind is invertible so,  $\hat{p}^* = F^{-1}(\frac{\mu^+}{\mu^+ + \mu^-})$ . If  $\mu^+ \gg \mu^-$  :  $\hat{p}^* \rightarrow \infty$  and  $\mu^- \gg \mu^+ : \hat{p}^* \rightarrow 0$ . Note that if  $\mu^+ = \mu^-$ ,  $\hat{p} = \frac{1}{2}$  is the median.

<sup>13</sup> We denote  $(x)^+ = \max(x, 0)$ .

<sup>14</sup> e.g. if  $p > \hat{p}$  (overproduction), the  $\mu^- (\hat{p} - p)^+$  term goes to 0 and overproduction fee is non-zero.

<sup>15</sup> Since the underproduction/overproduction fees are bounded, we can set the integrals bounds to  $\int_{-\infty}^{\hat{p}}$  and  $\int_{\hat{p}}^{\infty}$  respectively. Note that later on we can also rewrite an integral with these bounds as a CDF.